The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1.   A method for providing access to instrumentation data from within a runtime computing environment, comprising:

providing an instrumentation data access interface within said runtime environment;

receiving a request at said instrumentation data access interface for instrumentation data available outside said runtime environment;

transmitting a request for said instrumentation data to an instrumentation data source external to said runtime environment;

receiving a response to said request to said instrumentation data source;

converting said response to a format that is compatible with said runtime environment; and

responding to said request for instrumentation data with said converted response.

2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein said instrumentation data access interface comprises an instrumentation client API exposed within said runtime computing environment.

3.   The method of Claim 2, wherein converting said response comprises converting a component object model object to a management object that is compatible with said runtime computing environment.

4.   The method of Claim 3, wherein said management object encapsulates the properties of a management object accessible through said instrumentation data source.

5.   The method of Claim 1, wherein said response comprises an indication that an operation was unsuccessful and wherein said format comprises a management exception object.

6.   The method of Claim 5, wherein said indication that an operation was unsuccessful comprises error codes.

7.   A computer-readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of any one of Claims 1-6.

8.   A computer-controlled apparatus capable of performing the method of any one of Claims 1-6.

9.   A method for accessing instrumentation data from within a runtime computing environment, comprising:

receiving a request to construct a management object comprising said instrumentation data;

in response to said request, querying an instrumentation data access interface within said runtime environment for said instrumentation data;

determining whether said instrumentation data was successfully returned; and

in response to determining that said instrumentation data was successfully returned, constructing said management object and populating said management object with said instrumentation data.

10.   The method of Claim 9, wherein said request comprises a request to bind a management class to an instance of a management object accessible through a management instrumentation data source.

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11.   The method of Claim 10, wherein said request further comprises a management scope object identifying a namespace associated with said external management object.

12.   The method of Claim 11, wherein said request further comprises a management path object identifying a path to said external management object.

13.   The method of Claim 12, wherein said request further comprises a management options object specifying options to be utilized when connecting to said management object.

14.   The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

        throwing a management exception object in response to determining that said instrumentation data was not successfully returned.

15.   The method of Claim 14, wherein the properties of said management object may be accessed utilizing an indexer.

16.   A computer-readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of any one of Claims 9-15.

17.   A computer-controlled apparatus capable of performing the method of any one of Claims 9-15.